

Message Text

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43

ACTION CU-04

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R 170926Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4712

WHITE HOUSE

UNCLAS SAIGON 12879

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: USIS PROGRAMMING OF NSC SPECIAL COUNSEL JOHN LEHMAN

DEPT FOR CU

FOR CRANE IEA; ATTENTION WHITE HOUSE GENERAL

SKOWCROFT

REF: USIA 12265

1. LEHMAN ARRIVED SAIGON JULY 11, RECEIVED EMBASSY POL/MIL BRIEFING AND PARTICIPATED IN LUNCHEON/DISCUSSION AT MY RESIDENCE ATTENDED, AMONG OTHERS, BY TRNVEN LAM, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; NGUYEN PHU DUC, SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO PRESIDENT THIEU; SENATOR NGUYEN DUY TAI, CHAIRMAN OF SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE; AND BRIGADIER GENERAL LE TRUNG TRUC, DEPUTY COMMANDANT, NATIONAL DEFENSE COLLEGE. LEHMAN GAVE LUCID DESCRIPTION OF THE SALT TAKKS AND OTHER ARMS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS AND DISCUSSED THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION IN CONTEXT OF NIXON DOCTRINE. HE STRESSED OUR CONTINUED INTEREST IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND DETERMINATION OF PRESIDENT TO FULFILL OUR COMMITMENTS IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD, POINTING OUT THAT VIET NAM SETTLEMENT FORMS PART OF PATTERN OF OUR DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIP WITH BOTH MOSCOW AND PEKING. SPIRITED QUESTIONING BY PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT NGUYEN PHU DUC

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HIGHLIGHTED THIS VERY USEFUL SESSION.

2. LEHMAN ALSO MADE FIELD TRIP TO NHA TRN SR CONGEN BRIEFING AND LECTURED TO OVER 800 CADETS AT POL LCARFARE COLLEGE AND NUTIOFITARS ACADEMY IN DALWTNG FINAL ACTIVITY WAS TWO-HOUR

DISCUSSION IN SAIGON WITH 15 KEY VIETNAMESE EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS, AS WELL AS CONGRESSIONAL AND GVN PRESS OFFICIALS.

3. VIETNAMESE CIVILIAN AND MILITARY OFFICIALS WERE EXTREMELY APPRECIATIVE OF OPPORTUNITY TO BE EXPOSED TO HIGH LEVEL NSC STRATEGIST ON TIMELY SUBJECTS SUCH AS ARMS LIMITATION AND NIXON DOCTRINE. NUMBER OF THEM, INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTER, HAVE PERSONALLY COMMENTED TO ME THAT USPS DESERVES GREAT CREDIT FOR SPONSORING LEHMAN'S VISIT. LEHMAN'S THREE DAY PROGRAM WAS THUS UNUSUALLY SUCCESSFUL AND, IN OUR VIEW, MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL AND WE WOULD MORE THAN WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO ARRANGE SIMILAR PROGRAMS BY NSC STAFF MEMBERS ON REGULAR BASIS IN FUTURE.

4. LETTER WITH FURTHER SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS AND ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND FOLLOWS.

BREMENT

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